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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
St. Louis 2, Missouri

June 5, 1944

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

GARDENS NEED LOTS OF WATER

U. S. Department of Agriculture gardening specialists say that gardens in most localities require a moisture supply equivalent to about an inch of rain per week during the growing season for the best plant growth. An inch of rain provides about 28,000 gallons of water per acre, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts per square foot.

The specialists also say that it is much better to give a garden a good soaking once a week than to water lightly at more frequent intervals. The best way to apply water, when the soil and slope are suitable, is to run it the length of furrows between rows until the soil is well soaked. If the soil is very sandy or the surface too irregular for the furrow method, sprinklers or porous irrigating hose must be used.

Since gardens take time and work, why not plan to get the most for your effort this year? An electric water system will make certain that your Victory Garden will have enough water for maximum plant growth during dry spells.

TIPS ON THE CARE OF YOUR ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR

You can help make your electric refrigerator last longer by observing the following rules:

1. Defrost whenever the frost on the freezing compartment exceeds $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.
2. Right after defrosting, clean the cabinet interior and freezing compartment with a mild solution of baking soda. Dry with a clean dry cloth.
3. Wipe up spilled foods immediately. Those that contain acids can injure the glaze.
4. Avoid opening the refrigerator oftener than necessary.
5. Do not use sharp instruments to remove the ice trays. They may injure the coils or the trays.
6. If your refrigerator is a belt-driven model, oil it every two months with 6 to 10 drops of electric motor oil.
7. Keep foods covered to prevent excessive frosting.
8. Make certain that the rubber gasket around the door fits snugly. Test by closing the door on a dollar bill. If the bill pulls out easily, there is a poor fit at this point. Test at several places around the door.
9. Clean the condenser unit once or twice a year with a long-handled brush or vacuum cleaner attachment. Always disconnect the refrigerator from the power supply before cleaning the condenser unit.
10. Clean the outside of the cabinet with mild soap and warm water. The surface, if enameled, may be waxed two or three times a year for protection. Nicks and scratches should be painted with touch-up enamel to prevent rust.
11. Avoid touching the gasket when opening and shutting the door. Grease from hands softens rubber.
12. After setting the control for fast freezing, and freezing is completed, be sure to turn the control back to normal setting.

REA PROGRAM PRAISED

On REA's ninth birthday, May 11, a number of congratulatory messages were received at St. Louis headquarters. Among them were the following:

"It is a source of satisfaction to know that these new consumers (receiving

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service under wartime regulations) and those on the 2½ million farms electrified before, have attributed to electric power a large part of their ability to increase production of food or to maintain production with less manual labor ... As soon as conditions permit, Americans count upon REA to bring to many thousands more of our citizens the hope of a future in which drudgery will be minimized and farm life will be vastly enriched." -- President Roosevelt.

"...My association with this organization has been one of the most gratifying things of my long and rather eventful life." -- Former Senator George W. Norris.

"...Here is a great step forward in American civilization ..." -- Gifford Pinchot.

"...No work is more important to the future of America than the job of lighting up rural America ..." -- Rep. Jerry Voorhis of California.

"...I want the REA to be ready to take the leading place that it should take in our reconstruction program ..." -- Rep. W. R. Poage of Texas.

"...I am glad to have had a share in those early days, and I am glad that in the struggle I felt every moment of the time that I could depend upon the loyalty and the devotion of as fine a body of men and women as ever came together in the common interest..." -- Former REA Administrator John M. Carmody.

ARMY MATERIAL MAY HAVE FARM USE

Studies are being made to determine the future possibilities for use of military equipment in farming and in the operation of rural electric systems. Equipment which may be useful, when surplus to war needs, includes jeeps, standard trucks and even the four-wheel and six-wheel drive trucks, trailers from one-ton capacity to those large enough to haul a 40-ton tank, tools, fence, roofing, buckets, tires and other items.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Mr. DeWitt Clark finds his portable air compressor a very handy and necessary piece of equipment. Mr. Clark owns several farm implements which have rubber tires and need inflating occasionally. He also had a flat tire on one of his implements in the field. So he loaded his air compressor in the truck and took it out to the field, and inflated the tire, saving much valuable time. (From newsletter of Flathead Electric Cooperative, Kalispell, Montana.)

The unelectrified farm survey, recently completed, was made to find out just how many farms still remain without electricity in the area served by the Brown County R.E.A. in Brown, Nicollet, Redwood and Sibley counties.

The results of this survey were astonishing, in that they indicated that the job of electrifying our rural area is only about half completed. Most persons were pretty well agreed that the electrification of the area was nearly completed and that not many more REA lines were necessary.

Over 1,500 service extensions have been made on this project, but there are still more than 1,500 farms, churches, schools and other rural consumers not receiving high-line electric service in this territory. A complete summary of the unelectrified farm survey can be found on another page of this newsletter. (From newsletter of Brown County Rural Electrical Association, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota.)

James Wilson reported that his line had been dead for 15 minutes. He was told that a crew was working about a mile from his home, but could not be reached by telephone. Mr. Wilson volunteered to drive his car over and notify the crew. This act of cooperation reduced what probably would have been a two-hour outage to 35 minutes, and saved 20 miles of driving. Thanks a lot, Jimmy. (From newsletter of Rush County REMC, Rushville, Ind.)

We wish to commend Mr. S. B. McSwain and Mr. R. E. Olive for their real cooperation in obtaining penny postal cards on which to mark their meter readings. The usual monthly cards mailed to them from the office evidently were lost in transit and they wished to make certain that readings were obtained. (From Newsletter of Upson County EMC, Thomaston, Ga.)
